

FOOD COSTING LESS, CHILDS DECLINES TO LOWER PRICES

Manager of Restaurants Insists
on Flat 200 Per Cent. Profit
on Certain Articles.

Complaints to The Evening World that Childs restaurants are maintaining high peak prices although market prices have fallen heavily and lunch-keepers in various cities have announced a 20 per cent. cut, brought from an official of the company the declaration that Childs will make no such cut unless market prices fall fully 50 per cent.

Letters from F. R. Van Dorn, Assistant General Manager, have gone out to managers of the branch restaurants directing them to make a 200 per cent. profit on such items as they are obliged to buy outside of the company, which the organization maintains to sell wholesale to the various restaurants.

Potatoes are one item on which it is claimed the Childs restaurants are keeping up prices established when potatoes were selling in the market for four times the present selling price.

Last April a general order went out directing managers to abolish the custom of serving potatoes with meat orders for 5 cents extra, and to establish a straight charge of 10 cents. At that time potatoes had been selling for 12 cents a pound, retail.

Potatoes long ago passed the peak of high prices and now are being sold

around 5 cents a pound, retail. Despite this fall in the raw material, potatoes still are kept at 10 cents on the Childs menu cards.

An order of potatoes served yesterday in one of the Childs restaurants weighed six ounces. At this rate, a pound of potatoes sells for 24 cents, a profit of 120 per cent. at the 12-cent price, assuming that when buying in wholesale lots the Childs restaurants paid full retail prices.

Yet when the price of potatoes dropped to around 3 cents wholesale, the 10-cent price was continued, making a gross profit four times as great.

Hearing on this point, Mr. Van Dorn sent out the following letter Sept. 21:

SPECIAL LETTER.
Subject: PRICES.

Manager: Dear Sir,

Our prices as printed on the menu are right; they are just and fair to patrons and are necessary to maintain proper standards.

The cost of raw food materials may fluctuate, even go down; but there are other things entering into the final cost, and reasons for our charges, so that we cannot and do not change our prices when the market falls on certain or special items due to glut or abundant supply.

We do, however, seek even the better grade, if possible, and give even larger portions, which in a large measure takes up the drop in costs and shows at least what we can do for our customers.

Yours very truly,

CHILDS COMPANY,
By F. R. VAN DORN,
Assistant General Manager.

Approved by WM. CHILDS.

Speaking for the company in the absence of William Childs, who is out of the city, Secretary Wimple said: "Local price changes have no effect on our menus. We aim to standardize our prices in New York, Montreal, New Orleans, Los Angeles, and all the cities where we operate. We charge the same price for the same article, so far as is humanly possible to produce the identical item in two widely separated places. A change in price in the local market is not reflected in our prices until it becomes general and stabilized.

"We estimate a gross profit of 200 per cent. is necessary on the meals we serve, but in fact each dollar of

sales represents a cost between 45 and 48 cents. Before we can make a cut of 20 per cent. in our menu prices, market prices must decline 40 per cent. This other item entering into restaurant cost are showing no signs of declining. Rent, labor and the like are likely to remain where they are. Coal, gas and electricity are going up all over the country. The raw food cost is the only item in which there is any chance to cut prices.

"The overhead charges in any one restaurant or any given group of restaurants does not dictate our charges. Wherever we establish a restaurant we must have a place in a center, and rents generally are about the same in one city as another for such locations. Items in different parts of a city may vary, but we maintain the same prices in all restaurants throughout our entire system without regard to local market changes."

**DRY LAW VIOLATORS
WILL BE JAILED**

Those Arrested at Night Will Be
Locked Up Until the Next
Morning.

Persons charged with violation of the Volstead act, and arrested, as is often the case, at night, will be held in jail until their arraignment in the morning. The privilege of giving bail in the police station will be taken away, beginning Oct. 1.

Such was the ruling yesterday of United States Commissioner Hitchcock, who explained that leniency prevalent hitherto in the treatment of offenders was due to the novelty of the law, and the fact that its constitutionality was still in question. "The Volstead act no longer can be treated as a joke," Commissioner Hitchcock said. "Offenders will be regarded just as other criminals."

Woman Hurt in Leap at Fire.
Mrs. Irene Golden of No. 1800 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, is in Kings County Hospital to-day suffering from a broken hip as a result of leaping from a third-story window last night when her home was on fire. The fire was found in the hallway just before midnight, cutting off escape by the stairs.

**Three Children's Gardens Yield
Crops Worth \$9,300.**

Three Children's Municipal Gardens, operated by school children, have yielded crops worth \$9,300 this year, it was announced to-day by Mrs. Henry Parsons, director. Thirty-six hundred children had each a tiny plot to cultivate, fertilize, plant and harvest in the three gardens, located in Thomas Jefferson, DeWitt Clinton Parks, 34th Street and 11th Avenue, and Corleas Hook Park, Cherry and Jackson Streets. Two crops were grown in each little garden.

WOMAN TAX CLERK JAILED ON CHARGE OF \$55,000 THEFT

Bail Fixed at \$30,000 Each
in Case of Kearney, N. J.,
Collector and Assistant.

Accused with Town Collector Harry B. Cathness of embezzlement of funds of Kearney, N. J., and of Hudson County totalling \$55,000, Mrs. Thomas Scott Marshall, clerk in the Collector's office, is locked up to-day in the Hudson County Jail, Jersey City.

Mrs. Marshall was unable to produce the \$20,000 bail demanded. County Judge Doherty announced the amount would be raised to \$50,000 if real estate is offered and said he would fix the same rate for Cathness, now out under \$10,000 bail. Evidence against both is to be presented to the Grand Jury.

Auditor Smith asserted the alleged thefts centred around tax receipts. He said that books had been "doctored" with false entries so that payments which never went into the treasuries of the county or of Kearney appeared in the tax records to have been accounted for properly.

**Both Had Drugs
Hidden in Pajamas**

Police Use Fire Escape to Enter
Room of Man and Woman Long
Truffed.

Albert Arion, thirty-four years old, an inventor, and his wife, Melba, were arrested early to-day at No. 184 Manhattan Avenue by Lieut. Rimmer and Detectives Stern and Normand, on a charge of violating the Harrison law by having narcotics in their possession. The detectives, who had had the apartment on the fourth floor under observation for several weeks, went in by a fire escape. Arion showed a letter purporting to be signed by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, which he said was thanking him for an invention he gave the Government during the war. He only showed the signature.

The detectives said they found in the pajamas of the prisoners some white powders and crystals they believed to be narcotics, a two-pound jar of similar powder, and in the rooms ten 10-ounce bottles of powder and crystals. Also, they reported, they found an ingenious set of delicate scales concealed in a wooden spoon that opened in the middle. Arion was locked up in the West 100th Street Station, and his wife was taken to 47th Street, where there is a matron.

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BLACKJACKED ON "L" STAIRS.

One of Three Alleged Robbers of
Doctor Caught.

Charged with being one of three men who assaulted and robbed Dr. William Baker of Flower Hospital early to-day on the Third Avenue "L" stairway at 90th Street, Joseph Meslepa, twenty-four, no home, was arraigned to-day in Harlem Court.

Several of Dr. Baker's teeth were knocked out with a blackjack and he has been taken from his trousers pocket when Patrolman Outter of the East 194th Street station appeared. The handle ran.

"Catch the man in uniform!" shouted the physician, and after a chase of several blocks, during which he fired two shots in the air, Outter arrested Meslepa. The latter said he was discharged from the army two years ago.

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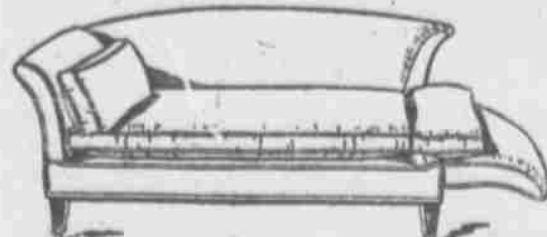
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The Telephone Crisis

Our net revenue for the month of January 1920 in New York City amounted to \$751,000. That figure indicated an annual return of about 8% upon the lowest conservative estimate of the value of the property in public use in the City.

February net revenue dropped \$213,000 below January
March net revenue dropped 362,000 below January
April net revenue dropped 456,000 below January
May net revenue dropped 702,000 below January
June net revenue dropped 571,000 below January.

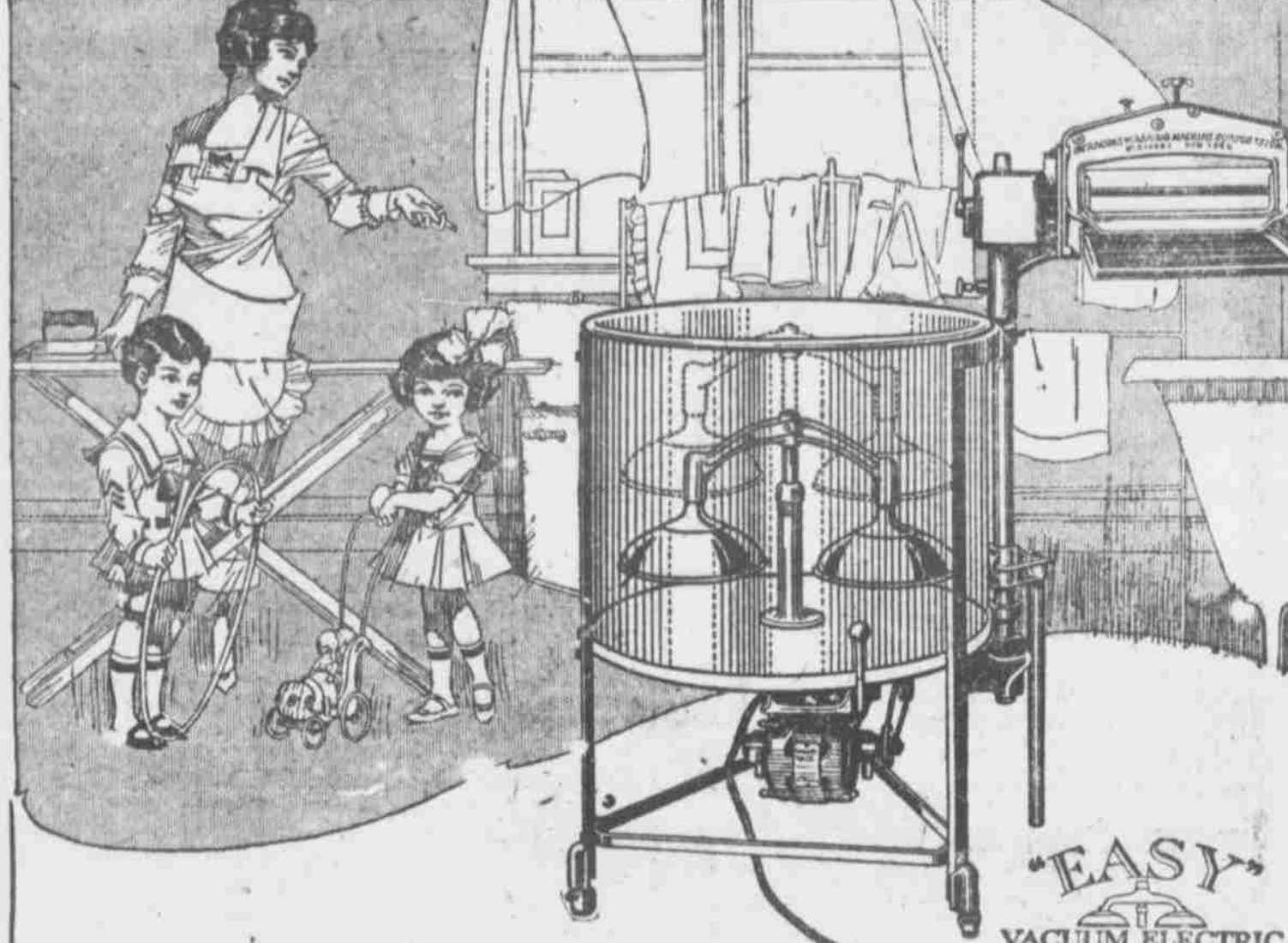
For July there was no net revenue.
We had a deficit of more than \$73,000.

This decline in net revenue is due to the impossibility of maintaining with present rates a proper relation between gross revenue and necessary costs of operation under the abnormal economic conditions that exist today.

Based upon operating results during the first seven months of 1920 we would earn this year *less than 2%* upon the most conservative valuation of our property in the Metropolis.

The protection of the service in the public interest demands that prompt action be taken to relieve this situation.

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The "Easy" family knows no "blue Monday." With the EASY Vacuum Electric Washing Machine, wash-day becomes wash-hour; washing, the most disagreeable item of housework, becomes child's play.

The EASY washing machine is childishly simple and it is this very simplicity that makes it better. Its suction principle of operation creates a strong water force which dirt cannot resist, yet is so harmless that the most delicate lingerie and fabrics cannot be injured.

EASY capacity is greatest for its size, the large all-metal tub insuring most rapid and easy loading and unloading. The EASY is the simplest machine to connect to water, sewer and gas mains. It has a special gas water-heater.

These and many other EASY features deserve a demonstration in your home. You cannot know all that a washing machine will do—can do—until you've tried the EASY. Select the nearest dealer from the following list for a demonstration.

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Bryner Bros.,
550 Columbus Avenue
Chen Electric Co., Inc.,
1121 St. Nicholas Avenue
Compendium Cleaners, at Lexington
Dwyer & Co., 24 W. 162 Chambers Street
F. B. Electric Co.,
11 W. Broadway Avenue
Howard, H.,
109 W. 40th Street
Lewis & Company, Inc.,
142 Webster Avenue, Bronx
N. Y.
Loy & Taylor,
5th Avenue and 28th Street
McNair, James & Co.,
26th Avenue and 84th Street
Mills & Stevens,
2375 Jerome Avenue
N. Y. Edison Co.,
125 W. 42nd Street
Oswald, John,
121 1/2 5th Avenue
Vacuum Cleaner Specialty Co.,
121 West 42nd Street
Wash Electric Supply Co.,
275 Madison Avenue | Brooklyn
Batterman & Co., H.,
Broadway and Flushing Ave.
Eisenberg Brothers,
1098 Broadway
Elec. Necessities Shop,
74 Rogers Avenue
England, Chas. R.,
3041 Frank Avenue
Flatman App. Co.,
400 Flatbush Avenue
Frankfort Electric Co.,
1402 Flatbush Ave.
7902 Third Avenue
Houses, E. H.,
1402 Flatbush Ave.
Joyce, Robert B.,
124 Kings Highway
Kroll Household Service,
517 Coney Island Avenue
Myers,
1100 Kings Highway
Minkus, Max,
515 New Utrecht Avenue
Morris Lighting Fixture Co.,
120 Flatbush Ave.
Nahm & Son, A. L.,
1802 6th Street
Schwarz, John A.,
180 Broadway
Rel. Lighting Fixture Co.,
140 Flatbush Avenue
5507 Fifth Avenue
Vacuum Cleaner Specialty Co.,
412 Fulton Street | Long Island
Wicks, Harry J.,
Queensborough Gas & Elec. Corp.,
40 Locust Street, Flushing
Maurer & Sons,
44 South Main St., Yonkers
Glen Cove
Gregory, L. J.,
Great Neck
Luskert, Wm. A.,
Suffolk Elec. Co.,
Willits Ridge, Huntington
Buckner, Wm.,
281 Fulton St., Jamaica
L. I. Electric Service Co.,
Bulpho Boulevard, Jamaica
Carter, Fred J.,
Munroe
Cramer & Oliver,
Oyster Bay
Cocka, Geo.,
130 Main Street,
Port Washington
Meyer, Martin A., Jr., Co.,
519 Park St., Richmond Hill
Simon, Joe
2308 Jamaica Avenue, R. H.
Littlefield-Alger Elec. Co.,
245 Merrick Avenue
Rockaway Centre
Adams, J. & Sons,
Rockaway Park
Albano, J. A.,
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Brower, R. H.,
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Schneider, D. W.,
81 Westside Avenue,
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Richmond Light & R. R. Co.,
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The Bee Hive,
20 Main Street, Haverstraw
Bosman, Walter R.,
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Larchmont Elec. Co.,
25 Boston Road, Larchmont
Northrup, T. G.,
Murray Electric Lt. Co.,
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Hawson & Co., Wm. G.,
21 Prospect Ave., R. Vernon
Central Hudson Gas & Elec. Co.,
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140 Water Street, Newburgh | Appliance Distributing Corp.,
476 Main St., New Rochelle
Cason, Thomas,
15 Division St., New Rochelle
Wash Corp., Howard R.,
216 Main Street, New Rochelle
Sennackenberg Co., Inc., H. A.,
300 Main Street, Yonkers
Marshall & Co., W. H.,
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118 Elm Street, Port Jervis
Central Hudson Gas & Elec. Co.,
Poughkeepsie
Fowler & Sons, Co.,
10 Main Street, White Plains
Westchester Elec. Supply Co.,
187 Main Street, White Plains
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18 Dock Street, Yonkers
Westchester Elec. Equip. Co.,
100 Main Street, Yonkers
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9 Manor House Bldg., Yonkers
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Nelson, Chas.,
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Cornell Handicrafts, Elec. Co.,
214 Main Street, Ashbury Park
Van Dyke Elec. Co.,
512 Cookman Ave., Asbury Park
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653 Broadway, Bayonne
Gardner, Elmer D.,
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14 Madison Lane, Round Brook
Douglas Liddy & Burd Elec. Co.,
204 R. Grand St., Elizabeth
Elizabeth Elec. Sup. Co.,
Elizabeth
Scott, Robert C.,
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Freehold
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Hackensack
Hoffman, W. A.,
Hackensack
Doy, J. Ely,
118 Central Ave., Nighttown
Patterson, Theodore H.,
218 Washington St., Hoboken
Jones, R. J.,
215 Jackson Ave., Jersey City
Mason, R. C.,
Jersey City
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Clark, Arthur G.,
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Davis Elec. Co.,
15 Central Avenue, Newark
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Rosen, A. H.,
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